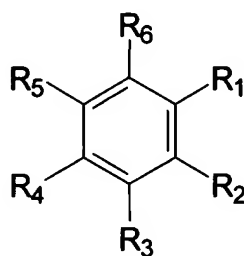


In the claims:

1. (previously presented) A method for modifying an amino-terminated surface of a solid support with carboxy groups comprising the steps of:

- a) providing an amino-terminated surface; and
- b) contacting the surface with a compound of the general formula (I):



(I)

wherein at least three of R₁ to R₆ are, independent from each other, selected from $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-Z$, and the remaining R groups are H; or R₁ and R₆ form a ring;

X is a group selected from C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₁-C₁₀ alkenyl, a C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, or a polyethylene glycol chain of the general form $(CH_2-CH_2-O)_m$, wherein m is an integer from 1 to 450, or X is a bond;

Y is a carbonyl group, or a bond;

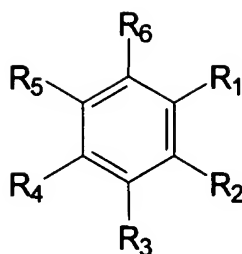
Z is OH or an electron withdrawing group; and

n is an integer from 0 to 10,

under conditions allowing the formation of an amide bond between a carbon of a carboxy group of the compound of the general formula (I) and a nitrogen of the amino group of the solid surface.

2. (previously presented) A method for modifying an amino-terminated surface of a solid support with carboxy groups comprising the steps of:

- a) providing an amino-terminated surface; and
- b) contacting the surface with a compound of the general formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

- (i) at least three of R_1 to R_6 are, independent from each other, selected from $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-Z$ and the remaining R groups are H; or
- (ii) R_1 and R_6 are together of formula $-(C=O)-Z'-(C=O)-$ so as to form a ring, at least one of R_2 to R_5 are, independent from each other, selected from $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-Z$ and the remaining R groups are H;

X is a group selected from C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_1 - C_{10} alkenyl, a C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, or a polyethylene glycol chain of the general form $(CH_2-CH_2-O)_m$, wherein m is an integer from 1 to 450, or X is a bond;

Y is a carbonyl group, or a bond;

Z is OH or an electron withdrawing group;

Z' is O or S; and

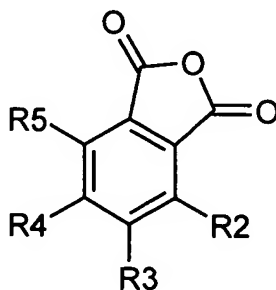
n is an integer from 0 to 10,

under conditions allowing the formation of an amide bond between a carbon of a carboxy group of the compound of the general formula (I) and a nitrogen of the amino group of the solid surface.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the solid support is glass, a polymer, a metal, a semiconductor or an insulator.

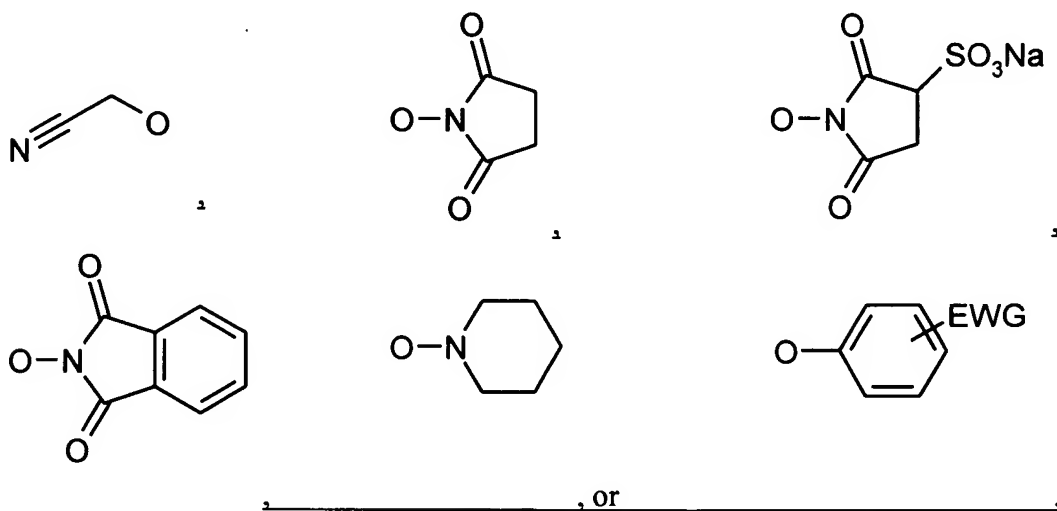
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the solid support has an amine-terminated siloxane surface.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein $n=0$.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein $n=1$.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein n is an integer from 2 to 5.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein two of R_1 to R_6 are, independent from each other, selected from $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-Z$; one of R_1 to R_6 , independent from each other, is selected from $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-OH$; wherein Z is an electron withdrawing group; and the remaining R groups are H.
9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein one of R_1 to R_6 is of formula $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-Z$; two of R_1 to R_6 , independent from each other, are selected from $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-OH$; Z =electron withdrawing group and the remaining R groups are H.
10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein each of R_1 , R_3 and R_5 are independently selected from $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-Z$.
11. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein Z' is O.
12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound of general formula (I) is of the general formula (II):



(II).

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein Z is an electron withdrawing group.
14. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein Z is a halogen atom selected from F, Cl and Br.
15. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein Z is selected from phenoxy substituted by at least one strong electron withdrawing group, cyanomethoxy, O-succinimide or its sodium sulfonate derivative NHS or sulfo-NHS, O-phthalimide, and O-piperidine.
16. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein Z is selected from:



wherein EWG is an electron withdrawing group.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is trimesic acid or a mono-, di-, or tri-succinimidyl ester thereof, or the compound is benzene-1,3,5-triacetic acid or a mono-, di-, or tri-succinimidyl ester thereof.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the compound is trimesic acid or a mono- or di-succinimidyl ester thereof, or the compound is benzene-1,3,5-triacetic acid or a mono- or di-succinimidyl ester thereof.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the compound is a tri-succinimidyl ester of trimesic acid, or the compound is a tri-succinimidyl ester of benzene-1,3,5-triacetic acid.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said succinimidyl ester is a substituted succinimidyl ester.

21. (original) The method of claim 20 wherein said substituted succinimidyl ester is a sulfonate derivative of succinimide.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein a coupling reagent is present.

23. (original) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the coupling reagent comprises an uronium- or phosphonium-based coupling reagent.

24. (original) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the coupling reagent comprises benzotriazol-1-yloxytris (dimethylamino)phosphonium hexafluorophosphate (BOP).

25. (original) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the coupling reagent comprises a carbodiimide.

26. (original) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the carbodiimide is dicyclohexylcarbodiimide, diisopropylcarbodiimide or 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride.

27. (original) The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the carbodiimide is 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein in step b) an excess of a tertiary base is added.
29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the tertiary base is diisopropylethylamine, triethylamine, N-ethylmorpholine or N-methylmorpholine.
30. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein in step b) additionally hydroxycinnamic acid is added.
31. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein in step b) the amount of the compound is limited, whereby not all amino groups of the solid support may be carboxylated.
32. (previously presented) A solid surface obtainable by the method of claim 1.
33. (original) The solid surface of claim 32 which is a carboxy-terminated solid surface.
34. (previously presented) A method for conjugating an amino-group containing substrate to an amino-terminated surface of a solid support comprising:
- i) performing the steps as defined in claim 1 to obtain a carboxy-terminated surface of a solid support; and
 - ii) contacting the amino-group containing substrate with the carboxy-terminated surface of the solid support of step i) under conditions allowing the formation of an amide bond between the carboxy group of the surface of the solid support and the amino group of the amino-group-containing substrate.
- 35-36. (canceled).

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the amino group-containing substrate is derived from nucleotides, amino acids, sugars, oligomers or polymers thereof.

38-39. (canceled).